

Leadership Team

A strategic plan is as good as the talent responsible for executing it. Treasurer Cowell preserved the continuity of services by relying on the existing experts within the Department. Additionally, Cowell

recruited a team of professionals who draw from their diverse experiences in the private, government, non-profit, academic and media sectors.

Financial Operations Director - Pam Wortham is a Certified Public Accountant and is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. She began her professional career with the Office of the State Auditor where she worked until accepting a position with the Department of State Treasurer in 2001.

General Counsel - Jay Chaudhuri has served in each of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of state government since 1999. Most recently, he was Special Counsel to the Attorney General for eight years, where he served as lead co-counsel for 50 Attorneys General in the multi-state effort to crackdown on sexual predators on social networking sites.

Legislative Liaison - Anthony Solari was the policy analyst and lobbyist for North Carolina's Smart Start program. Dr. Solari has extensive non-profit management and policy experience and has taught at Duke, N.C. State and Rutgers Universities.

Chief of Staff - Ron Ottavio worked for Wachovia for 33 years and served in numerous management and leadership positions. Before joining Cowell's team, Ron was the Acting President of the North Carolina Free Enterprise Foundation.

Communications Director - Kerra Bolton was a journalist for more than a decade, specializing in state government and politics. Most recently, she developed and implemented messaging strategy for the state Democratic Party.

State Investment Officer - Patricia Gerrick received a degree in economics from Fisk University and her M.B.A. from Columbia University. She has worked with the Indiana Public Employees Retirement Fund, the New York State Common Retirement Fund and the Retirement Systems of Kansas City.

Executive Assistant - Stephanie Scott has worked in state government administration for 23 years. She received a degree from Virginia State University.

Special Assistant - Nick Byrne is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has worked at the General Assembly for Sen. David Hoyle.